

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-21, 23-24, and 26-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 9-10, 24, and 31 are amended. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 9-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Manson or Kuroda in view of Makino. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Manson discloses a diagnostic system for an automatic appliance, such as a washer 10 (see Figures 1-2). Manson teaches storing error data for later retrieval by service personnel, using a special overlay template that the service personnel can use to execute special diagnostic routines using the standard operational keypad of the appliance. See, for example, the Abstract of Manson. More particularly, the washer 10 disclosed by Manson includes a control system which displays a variety of status codes/indicators to a user and also stores diagnostic codes/indicators in a memory which can later be accessed by the service personal performing diagnostic services. See, for example, column 13, lines 54-57 of Manson. The control system controls the motor spinning the washer 10. However, the control system of the washer 10 does not control operation of the motor based on stored operational history data of the washer 10.

The Examiner alleges that Manson discloses "a microprocessor (U1) configured to control the load part based on the operation history of the memory, see col. 14, lines 5-25, where the motor load part is controlled and col. 14, lines 50-67, where the drain load part is controlled.

However, control of the washer 10 is based on current conditions, not the data stored for later reference. Thus, Manson fails to disclose or suggest a system microprocessor configured to control operation of the load part of the washing machine based on at least the operation history of the washing machine, wherein the operation history of the washing machine comprises operation records and conditions of various load parts. Rather, Manson merely stores data relating to operation conditions for later retrieval by a service person.

Kuroda discloses a remote management system. As shown in Figure 1, the remote management system includes a central control apparatus 3 located at a management company 1 in communication via a public telephone line 5 with a launderette 2 at a separate location. The launderette 2 includes a plurality of machine blocks 8, 9 (i.e. washer, dryer), which each includes a microcomputer 8b, 9b. The microcomputer 8b, 9b controls start, drying, or washing operations of the machine blocks 8,9 in accordance with input commands and signals from sensors 8c, 9c. Each machine block 8,9 also includes a HBS I/F 8d,9d which allows transmission of data to data controller DTC 7. The DTC 7 communicates with the central control apparatus 3, which monitors machine blocks 8,9. However, none of the components of the Kuroda system store operation history data or control operation of the machine blocks 8,9 based on stored operation history data of the machine blocks 8,9.

Makino discloses a washing machine with means for storing and displaying data of contents of a washing operation. In Figure 1, Makino discloses a control circuit 1 in communication with a non-volatile memory 12. Makino discloses storing data relating to washing operations executed at a plurality of times in the past in the memory 12. See column

5, lines 13-14 of Makino. That is, Makino discloses storing a record of operations in the memory 12. Makino teaches that the record can help a serviceman or user find out the cause of the failure of the washing machine. See the Abstract of Makino and column 8, lines 17-40. The Makino system includes the control circuit 1, which controls a washing machine motor 5, a water supply valve 6, a drain valve 7, and an automatic power-off circuit through a drive circuit 9 based on input signals from a lid switch 2, a water level sensor 3, switches 14 to 24, and a power supply voltage detecting circuit. The control circuit is capable of writing data into and reading data out of the memory 12.

However, Makino does not disclose or suggest a system microprocessor configured to control operation of the load part of the washing machine based on at least the operation history of the washing machine, wherein the operation history of the washing machine comprises operation records and conditions of various load parts. Rather, Makino merely stores data relating to operation conditions for later retrieval by a service person. The Examiner alleges that "Makino is cited [for] disclosing in a washing machine having a memory for recording the operation of the washing machine, a system for controlling the motor load part, as well as a water supply load part and a drain load part (see, col. 5, lines 13-45), as a function of the record of operation." However, Makino merely stores operation history of the washing machine for access later by a serviceman or user.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the claimed system microprocessor configured to control operation of the load part of the washing machine based on at least the stored operation history of the

washing machine, as recited in claims 9 and 10. Claim 9 further recites that stored operation history comprises operation records including use and malfunction records and conditions of various loads of the load part. The references also fail to disclose controlling operation of a load part based on these aspects of stored operation history.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 9 and 10 are allowable. Claim 11 depends from claim 10, and claims 12-21 and 23 depend from claim 9. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-21 and 23 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 24-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Makino or Manson in view of Kuroda. Claim 25 has been canceled and its features added to independent claims 24 and 31. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 24 and 31 each recite, *inter alia*, a microprocessor configured to read the stored user-selected wash cycle option and stored operation history data from the memory and automatically upload them to an external device when connected thereto, wherein the microprocessor further automatically downloads new washer-operation values for one or more new wash cycle options from the external device and stores the downloaded new washer-operation values into the memory. None of the applied references, Makino, Manson, and Kuroda, disclose or suggest such features.

The Examiner argues that Kuroda discloses "new operations download." However, Kuroda does not disclose or suggest a microprocessor which automatically uploads stored user selected wash cycle option and stored history data from the memory and automatically

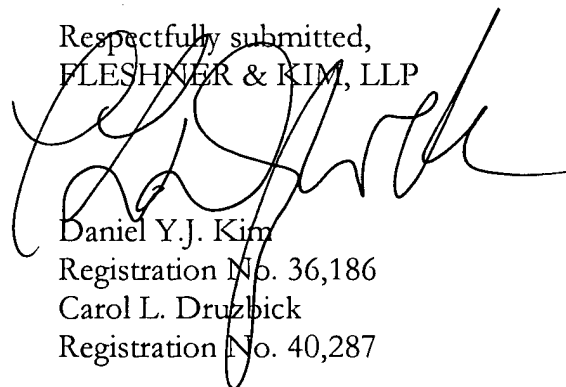
downloads new-operation values for one or more new wash cycle options from the external device and stores the downloaded new-operation washer values into the memory.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 24 and 31 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 26-30 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 24, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbeck**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**Date:** October 22, 2003

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